

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

In re application of: Royal Alliance Inc. et al  
Application No.: PCT/CA2004/000990  
Filing Date: July 7, 2004  
Priority Date: July 7, 2003  
Title: FURNITURE SYSTEM COMPOSED OF PANEL-SHAPED  
ELEMENTS, PANEL SHAPED ELEMENT FOR USE IN THIS SYSTEM  
AND SECURING SLEEVE FOR USE TOGETHER WITH A PANEL-  
SHAPED ELEMENT OF THIS TYPE

Our Reference: WH 11 988WO

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December 24, 2004

**Via: Facsimile 011-31-70-340-3016**

The International Preliminary Examining Authority  
European Patent Office  
P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk

Dear Sir:

This is further to the International Search and we request under Article 19  
that the claims be amended as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Replace page 1 of the claims now on file with the new page enclosed  
herewith.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

Claim 1 of the application has been amended to include the particular feature  
that the tie rods connect the panel-shaped elements in an indirect connection where each  
panel shaped element bears by means of one of the end sides against a coupling part and  
the tie rods ensure that the respective bearing surfaces of the end side of the coupling part  
bear against one another.